

FORM PTO-1390
(REV. 11-2000)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

327 084

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/807154

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

PCT/EP99/05393

28 July 1999 (28.07.99)

10 October 1998 (10.10.98)

TITLE OF INVENTION FILM LEAK DETECTOR

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US FLOSBACH, RUDOLF, et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
18. ☒ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☒ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☒ Other items or information:

PCT/RO/101

PCT/IB/301

PTO/1449

PCT/IB/306

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known) **09/807154**INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO
PCT/EP99/05393ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
327 08421. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO
and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO **\$1000.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to
USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO **\$860.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO
but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO **\$710.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO
but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) **\$690.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) **\$100.00**

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY**

\$ 860.00

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$ 0.00

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	20 -20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$ 0.00
Independent claims	1 -3 =	0	x \$80.00	\$ 0.00

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) + **\$270.00**

\$ 0.00

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$ 860.00

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above
are reduced by 1/2.

\$ 0.00

SUBTOTAL =

\$ 860.00

Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

\$ 0.00

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$ 860.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be
accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **\$40.00** per property +

\$ 40.00

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$ 900.00

Amount to be
refunded: \$


charged: \$

- a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 900.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card
information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR
1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Thomas J. Wall
Wall Marjama & Bilinski
101 South Salina Street
Suite 400
Syracuse, NY 13202
US


SIGNATURE

Thomas J. Wall
NAME

24,280
REGISTRATION NUMBER

Practitioner's Docket No.: 327_084

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

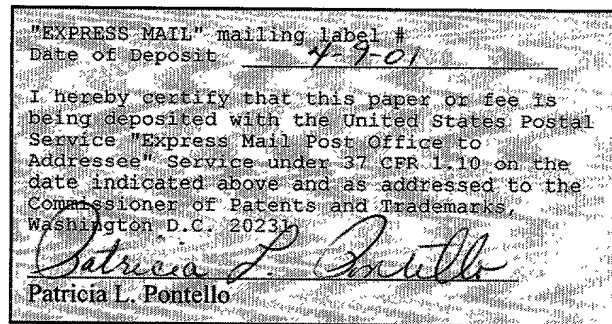
In re the application of: Rudolf Flosbach

Ser. No.: Not Assigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: FILM LEAK DETECTOR

BOX PCT RO/US
Assistant Commissioner for
Patents
Washington DC 20231



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please add the following subheadings as indicated:

Page 1, between the title and the first paragraph, please insert --Background of the Invention--;

Page 1, between the third and fourth paragraphs, please insert--Brief Description of the Drawings--;

Page 1, before the last paragraph, please insert --Description of the Invention--.

In the Claims:

Please remove the Title of the Invention from the first page of the Claims and insert --What is Claimed is--.

Please amend the claims as follows:

--3. (Amended) Leak detector as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the frames (3, 4) comprises an outer (71, 72) and an inner subframe (73, 74) and that the particular outer subframe (71, 72) is equipped with a recess (75, 76) in which is disposed the particular inner subframe (73, 74).

5. (Amended) Leak detector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lower frame (4) is stayed on the margin (7) of a plate-form bottom (8).

6. Leak detector as claimed in claim 1 wherein as a support of the upper frame (3) is provided a steel profile (81) encompassing the frame.

7. Leak detector as claimed in claim 6 wherein the upper frame (3) is fastened on the steel profile (81) so as to float.

8. Leak detector as claimed in claim 6, wherein the steel profile (81) with the test chamber (80) closed also partially encompasses the lower frame (4).

10. Leak detector as claimed in claim 8, wherein the frames (3, 4) and the steel profile (81) are formed circularly.

11. Leak detector as claimed in claims 1, wherein the frames (3, 4) are comprised of synthetic material, preferably polyamide.

12. Leak detector as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is equipped with a sniffer (48) which can be deposited in a holder (54).

14. Leak detector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film (6) of the lower frame (4) is equipped with a central connection port (18) and a line (19) is detachably connected with the connection port (18).

18. Leak detector as claimed in claim 15 wherein the synthetic material tube section (18) and/or corrugated tube (19) are comprised of polyamide.

19. Leak detector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frames (3, 4) are connected with one another across an articulation (2).--

In the Abstract:

Please remove the Title of the Invention from the Abstract page and insert: --
Abstract of the Disclosure--.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the subject application to include the required subheadings and further amended the claims to remove multiple claim dependencies to place the case into better condition for examination.

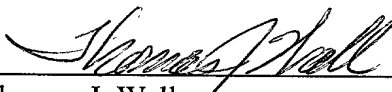
If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

WALL MARJAMA & BILINSKI

Dated: March 28, 2001

By: 
Thomas J. Wall
Reg. No. 24,280

TJW/pp
101 South Salina Street, Suite 400
Syracuse, NY 13202
Telephone: (315) 425-9000
Facsimile: (315) 425-9114
Customer No.: 020874

"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

In the Claims:

--3. (Amended) Leak detector as claimed in claim 1 [or 2, characterized in that], wherein each of the frames (3, 4) comprises an outer (71, 72) and an inner subframe (73, 74) and that the particular outer subframe (71, 72) is equipped with a recess (75, 76) in which is disposed the particular inner subframe (73, 74).

5. (Amended) Leak detector as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the lower frame (4) is stayed on the margin (7) of a plate-form bottom (8).

6. Leak detector as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 4 characterized in that] claim 1 wherein as a support of the upper frame (3) is provided a steel profile (81) encompassing the frame.

7. Leak detector as claimed in claim 6 wherein the upper frame (3) is fastened on the steel profile (81) so as to float.

8. Leak detector as claimed in claim 6, wherein [or 7] the steel profile (81) with the test chamber (80) closed also partially encompasses the lower frame (4).

9. Leak detector as claimed in claim 6, wherein the steel profile (81) with the test chamber (80) closed also partially encompasses the lower frame (4).

10. Leak detector as claimed in claim 8, wherein the frames (3, 4) and the steel profile (81) are formed circularly.

11. Leak detector as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
wherein the frames (3, 4) are comprised of synthetic material, preferably polyamide.

12. Leak detector as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
wherein it is equipped with a sniffer (48) which can be deposited in a holder (54).

14. Leak detector as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
wherein the film (6) of the lower frame (4) is equipped with a central connection
port (18) and [that the] a line (19) is detachably connected with the connection port
(18).

18. Leak detector as claimed in [one of the preceding claims, characterized in
that] claim 15 wherein the synthetic material tube section (18) and/or corrugated
tube (19) are comprised of polyamide.

19. Leak detector as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1,
wherein the frames (3, 4) are connected with one another across an articulation (2).--

2/PRTS

Film Leak Detector

The invention relates to a film leak detector with two films each stretched in a frame. Film leak detectors of this type are known from DE-A-196 42 099.

The present invention is based on the task of structuring a film leak detector of the known type simply and stably as well as improving it with respect to its operation.

This task is solved through the measures listed in the patent claims.

Advantages and details of the invention will be explained in conjunction with embodiment examples represented in the Figures. Therein depict:

- Figure 1 schematically a film leak detector according to the invention including its circuit diagram,
- Figure 2 a partial section through the frame in which the films are stretched, and further details in elevation as well as
- Figure 3 a section through a detachable connection of a connection port, fastened on a film, with a line extending further.

Figure 1 shows schematically a film leak detector 1 with its two frames 3 and 4 connected across an articulation 2 as well as films 5 and 6 stretched therein. The frames 3 and 4 are circular. The lower frame is stayed on the margin 7 of a plate-form bottom 8, preferably comprising steel. Spunbonded web sections 9 disposed on the films 5, 6 ensure the formation of a contiguous test chamber with the test sample emplaced. The fundamental structure of a film leak detector of this type for the remainder is known from DE-A-196 42 099.

The lower frame 4 is equipped with several bores, not shown in detail, which terminate in the interior of the test chamber, which is formed by the two films 5, 6 with the test sample emplaced. Connected to these bores are line sections 10, which communicate across a common line 11 with a valve 12 with a forevacuum pump 13. Upstream with respect to the valve 12 are additionally connected to the line 11 a pressure meter 14 and a venting valve 15.

The lower film 6 is equipped approximately in its center with a line connection 18, which is succeeded by line section 19, filter 20 and line 21 with valve 22. The line 21 is also equipped with a pressure meter 23 and with a venting valve 24.

The section of line 21, disposed between the connection of the pressure meter 23 and the valve 22, communicates across two parallel lines 26 and 27 with a line 28, which extends between the test gas detector 29 and a second forevacuum pump 30. In line 26 is disposed a choke valve 32. Line 27 is equipped with a valve 33.

The forevacuum pump 13 is usefully a single-stage [pump], the forevacuum pump 30 is developed as a two-stage [pump]. Pump 30 is equipped with a gas ballast device. With valve 31 open, air (or also inert gas) streams into pump 30.

In the test gas detector 29 is disposed a turbomolecular vacuum pump 35, whose outlet communicates with line 28. To the inlet of the turbomolecular vacuum pump is connected a mass spectrometer 36. In addition, a pressure meter 37 is a component of the leak detector 29, which measures the pressure in line 28.

Downstream with respect to the valves 12 and 22, the two lines 11 and 28 communicate across a line 38 into which the line 21 also terminates. In this line 38 between the termination of line 21 and line 28 are disposed valves 41

and 42. In the section of line 38 disposed between valves 41 and 42 terminates a line 44, which is connected with a coupling 45. The coupling 45 serves for establishing the connection of line 44 with the sniffing line 47 of a sniffer 48. The sniffing probe, denoted by 51, of the sniffer 48 comprises a handle 52 and a sniffing tip 53.

For depositing the sniffing probe a holder 54 is provided. Such is either fastened on the film leak detector 1 or developed as a separate stand. It comprises a void 55 which, when the probe 51 is deposited, contains the sniffing tip. In addition is provided a sealing ring 56 which seals the void 55 against the handle 52 when the probe 51 is deposited. Succeeding void 55 is a line 57, which communicates across a coupling 58 with an underpressure switch 59 accommodated in the housing of the film leak detector 1. As sniffing line 47 serves in known manner a capillary [tube] (diameter approximately 0.5 mm). This applies also to the line 57, in order for the underpressure generated by the sniffing tip 53 in chamber 55 to exert its effect rapidly on the underpressure switch 59.

In the film leak detector according to Figure 1 the leak detector cycle proceeds automatically. To control the process flow, a control center is provided which is only depicted as a block 61. With it are connected all meters and all structural components to be controlled. This applies also to a switch which is actuated with the closing of the test chamber. In the embodiment example depicted this switch is a proximity switch, which comprises a metal pin 62 provided on frame 3 and a sensor 63 disposed on frame 4. The sensor 62 [sic: 63] is connected with the control center 2 [sic: 62]. Other switches, be they operated electrically, mechanically or optically, can be applied for this purpose.

For the sake of clarity, the great number of electric connection leads between the control center 61 and the structural parts are not depicted. Connected with the control center are also two signal lights 64, 65, of which one lights

up green if a test sample is detected to be impermeable and the other red if a test sample is detected to be permeable.

In the operationally ready film leak detector 1, if the test chamber - as depicted in Figure 1 - is opened or if the upper frame 3 is raised from the lower frame 4, all valves - except for valve 41 - are closed. After the test sample is placed onto the lower film 6 and after the upper frame 3 is placed onto the lower frame 4, the proximity switch 62, 63 initiates a leak detection process. For this purpose, first a check takes place of whether or not an increased helium background is in the system, which could falsify leakage measurements. This takes place with the aid of the mass spectrometer 36. If it reports too high a background, valve 31 is opened and pump 30 is operated with gas ballast until the helium background has assumed a harmless value.

As a rule, an increased helium background is not present such that with the closing of the test chamber, the leak detection cycle proper also starts. First, valves 12 and 22 are opened. This causes the extremely rapid evacuation of the volume between the films 5 and 6. Outside of the regions in which the spunbonded fabric sections 9 are disposed, the films 5, 6, directly in contact with one another, form the sealing of the test chamber.

Of significance is that in the first evacuation phase only valves 12 and 22 are opened. It occurs only in this first phase that the wall/packaging of the test sample to be tested for leaks suffers a defect, for example could burst. Since in this phase connections between the test chamber and the leak detector are closed, there is no danger of helium pollution or contamination due to the product penetrating out of the test sample.

At a pressure of a few hundred mbar (100 to 300 mbar) the choke valve 32 is opened. It is dimensioned such that the necessary forevacuum pressure of the turbomolecular vacuum pump 35 does not assume impermissibly high values. With the opening of the choke valve 32 the gross leak detection starts. If helium flows through the choke valve 32, it reaches the mass

spectrometer 36 in counterflow through the turbomolecular pump 35. If helium is being registered, the test sample is permeable; the leak detection cycle is terminated.

In the event helium is not yet being registered, the evacuation process is continued. If the pressure reaches a value, measured with apparatus 23, which is of the order of magnitude of the forevacuum pressure of the turbomolecular pump 35, valves 12, 22 and 32 are closed and valve 33 is opened. The phase of the sensitive leak detection starts. This is terminated if either test gas is being registered, thus the test sample is permeable, or after a specific length of time. Either a fixed time interval is preset or the test is carried out until the pressure (measured with apparatus 23) falls below a certain value. If test gas is not registered within this time, the result allows the conclusion that the test sample is impermeable.

During the sensitive leak detection phase, only lines 19, 21 and 27 represent the connection between the test chamber and the leak detector 29. Bursting of the test sample no longer needs to be anticipated. Between lines 19 and 21, for the remainder, is disposed the particle filter 20, which keeps any impurities away from leak detector 29.

Termination of the leak detection cycle takes place in such manner that all previously open valves - except for valve 41 - are closed and valves 15, 24 are opened. The test chamber is vented and the upper frame 3 can be raised from the lower frame 4. It is useful if the two frames 3, 4, articulated with one another, in the proximity of the articulation 2 are under the effect of a (not shown) spring device whose force acts continuously in the direction of opening. Its force should be such that the vacuum generated during the leak detection keeps the test chamber closed and that frame 3 assumes its open position after the venting process.

If during the leak test it is found that a test sample is permeable, it is of interest to the user to locate the site of the leak. For this purpose the film

leak detector according to the invention is equipped with a sniffer 48. It is connected with its sniffing line 47 to line 44 across the coupling 45.

As long as the sniffer 48 is not in use, it is deposited in a holder 54. This holder 54 is equipped with the means 55 to 59 already described, with the aid of which the control center 61 can detect whether or not probe 51 is deposited in holder 54. Other means, be they mechanically, electrically or inductively actuated switches, can also be used for this purpose.

As long as probe 51 is in holder 54, valve 41 is kept open, as has already been described. Thereby the sniffer is continuously in standby. Only when it is removed from its holder 54, does valve 41 close and valve 42 open. The gas stream penetrating sniffer 48 thereby reaches line 28 and is maintained by pump 30. In this state, sniffing leak detection is possible. If helium is picked up by the sniffing tip 53, it reaches the mass spectrometer 36 in counterflow through the turbomolecular pump 35.

The control center 61 is programmed such that switching the sniffer 48 from standby to leak detection operation (switching over valves 41 and 42) does not occur as long as the proximity switch 62, 63 is closed. The simultaneous leak detection leading to error measurements via the film leak detector 1 and via the sniffer 48 is consequently excluded.

Of interest to the visitor [*sic*: user?] in the quantitative leak detection as a rule is the leakage rate of a detected leak, measured in mbar l/sec.

In the inspection of test samples produced in high production numbers, however, it is also of interest to measure the concentration of the test gas in the test sample. This can take place thereby that the sniffing tip 53 is inserted into the test sample or that the test sample is provided with a defined leak and in the film leak detector 1 a leak detection cycle is carried out. The control center is therefore developed such that on a (not shown) display the leakage rate as well as also the concentration can be read.

Figure 2 shows the structure of frames 3 and 4. Each comprises an outer ring 71 or 72 and an inner ring 73, 74. Between the pairs of rings are fastened, preferably adhered, the films 5, 6. Each of the inner rings is disposed in recesses 75, 76, corresponding to one another. The recesses are disposed such that the outer rings 71, 72 in their regions facing the test chamber directly oppose one another and thereby determine the planes of the stretched films 5, 6. In the outer region the inner rings 73, 74 directly oppose one another. Between them is disposed a lip seal 77. Films 5, 6 extend through the angular gap between the particular ring pairs and are thus adhered or screw-connected all-over.

In Figure 2 is also evident that the films 5, 6 form a test chamber 80 when a test sample 79 is placed between them. The spunbonded fabric sections 9 ensure the formation of a contiguous test chamber 80.

Ring 72 of the lower frame 4 is stayed on margin 7 of the plate-form bottom 8 and is adhered to it (adhesion layer 78). Associated with the upper frame 3 is a support, which is formed by a steel profile 81 encompassing the frame 3 from the outside and partially from above. Frame 3 is fastened on steel profile 81 so as to float in the axial direction such that, after it is lowered, it comes to rest uniformly on the entire periphery of frame 4. Through the evacuation of the test chamber 80, additionally, a pressing force is generated. In the axial direction the steel profile 81 extends downwardly beyond frame 3 and, in the last phase of the lowering movement, forms a guidance. A trim ring 85 serves for covering the steel ring 81.

Figure 2 shows further that the depicted film leak detector is equipped with an encompassing handle 82. On it is fastened the holder 54 for the sniffer 48. In holder 54 is disposed the means, already described in connection with Figure 2, which indicates whether or not probe 51 of the sniffer 48 is deposited on holder 54. Between holder 54 and the housing 86 extends the capillary hose 57 which is inserted into the coupling 58.

Figure 3 shows the transition between the connection port 18 and the line section 19 extending further. Both are comprised of synthetic material, preferably polyamide. The line section 19 is developed as a corrugated tube and, together with sealing rings 83, 84, encompasses the connection port 18.

Film leak detector

Patent Claims

1. Film leak detector with two films (5, 6) each stretched in a frame (3, 4), characterized in that each of the frames (3, 4) comprises two synthetic material subframes (71, 73 or 72, 74, respectively) between which the particular film (5, 6) is fastened.
2. Leak detector as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the films (5, 6) are adhered or screw-connected all-over with the frame areas adjacent to them.
3. Leak detector as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that each of the frames (3, 4) comprises an outer (71, 72) and an inner subframe (73, 74) and that the particular outer subframe (71, 72) is equipped with a recess (75, 76) in which is disposed the particular inner subframe (73, 74).
4. Leak detector as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the recesses (75, 76) corresponding to one another are disposed in the regions of the outer subframes facing away from the test chamber (80) and that one of the inner subframes disposed in the recesses is equipped with a seal, preferably a lip seal (77).
5. Leak detector as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the lower frame (4) is stayed on the margin (7) of a plate-form bottom (8).

6. Leak detector as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that as a support of the upper frame (3) is provided a steel profile (81) encompassing the frame.
7. Leak detector as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the steel profile (81) is developed angularly and at least partially encompasses the frame (3) from above and from the outside.
8. Leak detector as claimed in claim 6, or 7, characterized in that the upper frame (3) is fastened on the steel profile (81) so as to float.
9. Leak detector as claimed in claim 6, 7 or 8, characterized in that the steel profile (81) with the test chamber (80) closed also partially encompasses the lower frame (4).
10. Leak detector as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the frames (3, 4) and the steel profile (81) are formed circularly.
11. Leak detector as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the frames (3, 4) are comprised of synthetic material, preferably polyamide.
12. Leak detector as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is equipped with a sniffer (48) which can be deposited in a holder (54).
13. Leak detector as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that it is equipped with a support (82) for the holder (54) of the sniffer (48).

14. Leak detector as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the film (6) of the lower frame (4) is equipped with a central connection port (18) and that the line (19) is detachably connected with the connection port (18).
15. Leak detector as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the connection port (18) is a tube section comprised of synthetic material.
16. Leak detector as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the line (19) in the region facing the connection port (18) is developed as a synthetic corrugated tube which encompasses the connection port (18) when the connection is established.
17. Leak detector as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that between the corrugated tube and the connection port at least one sealing ring (83, 84) is disposed.
18. Leak detector as claimed in one of claims 15 to 18, characterized in that the synthetic material tube section (18) and/or corrugated tube (19) are comprised of polyamide.
19. Leak detector as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the frames (3, 4) are connected with one another across an articulation (2).
20. Leak detector as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that the two frames (3, 4) are under the effect of a spring device whose force acts continuously in the direction of opening.

Film leak detector

Abstract

The invention relates to a film leak detector with two films (5, 6) each stretched in a frame (3, 4); in order to attain a simple and stable structuring, it is proposed that each of the frames (3, 4) is comprised of two synthetic material subframes between which the particular film (5, 6) is fastened.

Figure: 2

- 1 / 2 -

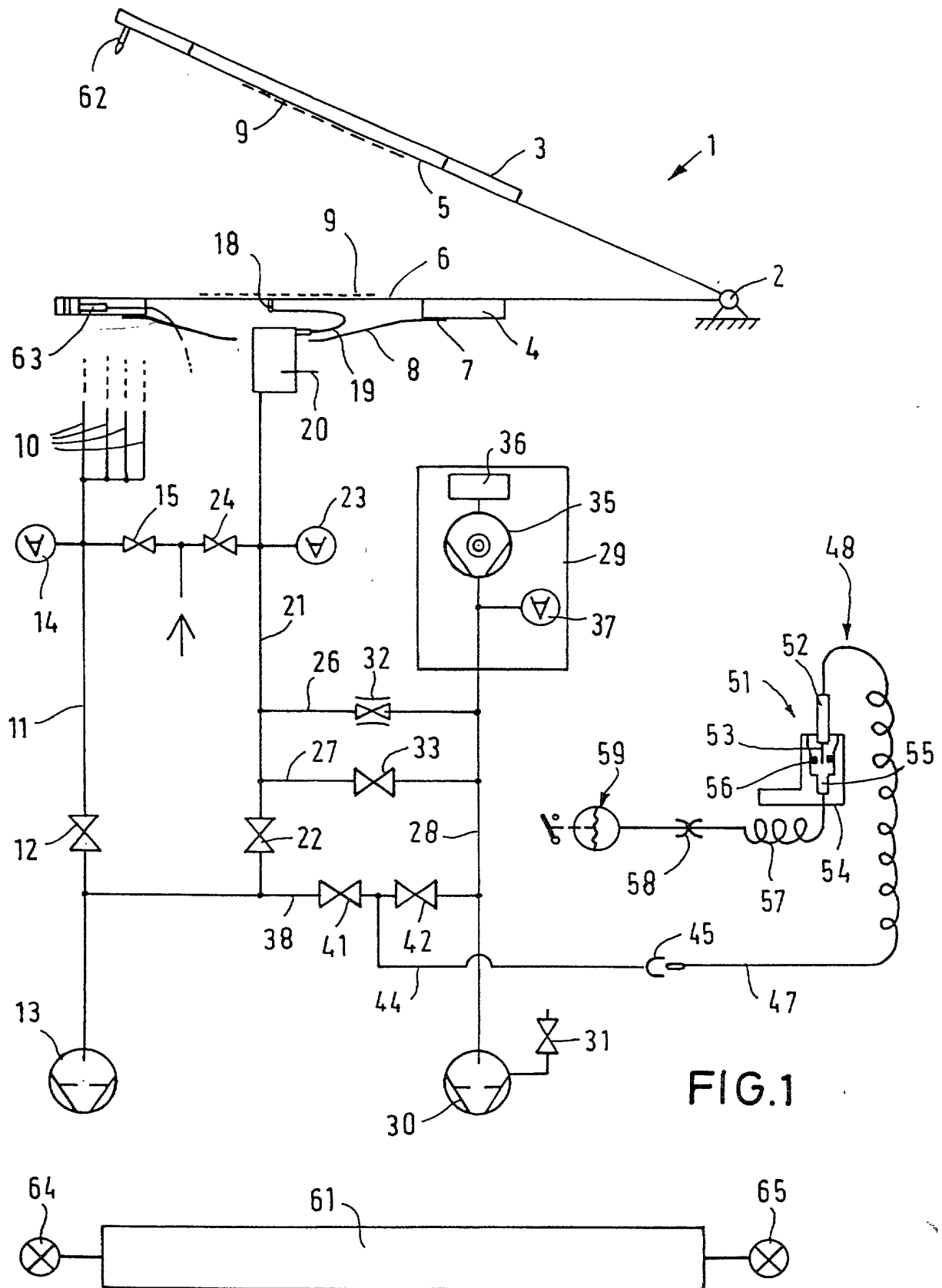


FIG.1

- 2 / 2 -

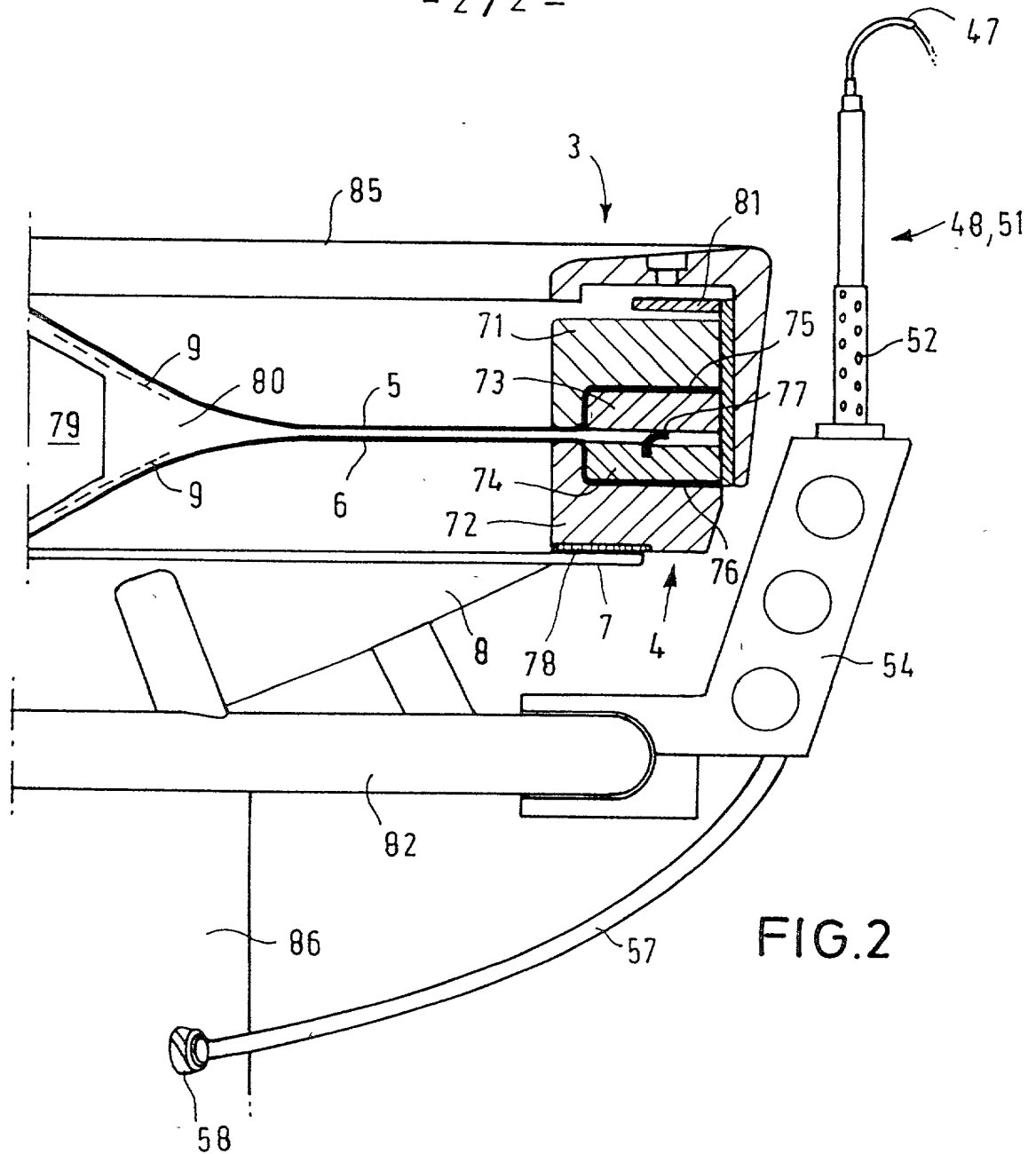


FIG. 2

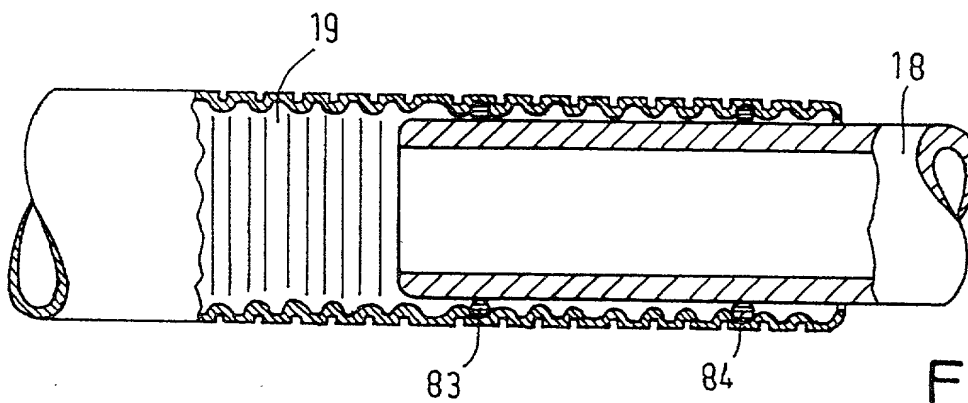


FIG. 3

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application English Language Declaration	Attorney Docket No.	327 084
	First Named Inventor	Rudolf Flosbach
	<i>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</i>	
	Application Number	Not Assigned
	Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted After Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16(e) required)	Group Art Unit	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

FILM LEAK DETECTOR

the specification of which (check one)

- ☐ is attached hereto.
☐ was filed on Concurrently Herewith as United States Application No. Not Assigned.
☒ was described and claimed in PCT International Application Number PCT/EP99/05393 filed on July 28, 1999 and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International Application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International Application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

<u>19846800.8</u> (Number)	<u>Germany</u> (Country)	<u>10.Oct. 1998</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>PCT/EP99/05393</u> (Number)	<u>WO</u> (Country)	<u>28.July.1999</u> (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States Provisional Application(s) listed below:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 120 of any United States Application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International Application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International Application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C.F.R. Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.
(List names and Registration Number)

Thomas J. Wall, Reg. No. 24,280
Owen D. Marjama, Reg. No. 22,818
Peter J. Bilinski, Reg. No. 35,067
George S. Blasiak, Reg. No. 37,283
Edward C. Jason, Reg. No. 26,743
Christopher R. Pastel, Reg. No. 37,694
Robert E. Purcell, Reg. No. 28,532
Daniel P. Malley, Reg. No. 43,443

Send Correspondence to:

Thomas J. Wall
WALL MARJAMA & BILINSKI
101 South Salina Street, Suite 400
Syracuse, NY 13202

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)

Thomas J. Wall, (315) 425-9000

Full name of sole or first inventor

Rudolf Flosbach

Sole or first inventor's signature

[Signature]

Date

30.03.2001

Residence

Drecke 3, 51688 Wipperfurth, Germany

DEX

Citizenship

German

Post Office Address

Same

Full name of second inventor, if any

Second inventor's signature

Date

Residence

Citizenship

Post Office Address